

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (canceled)

13. (new) Wire sawing process comprising:

sawing at least one prismatic piece to be sawed having a substantially rectangular base with a layer of wires stretched between at least two wire guide cylinders whose axes are parallel to a working plane and held in position by grooves provided on the surface of the wire guide cylinders which define an interval between the wires of the layer of wires, hence the thickness of sawed slices;

the wires of the layer being adapted to move while bearing against the piece to be sawed fixed on at least one support table via an intermediate plate;

the sawing being carried out by relative advancing movement between the piece to be sawed and the layer of wires;

wherein the piece to be sawed is fixed on the support table such that a prismatic surface of said piece directed toward the layer of wires forms a predetermined angle of inclination with said working plane along an intersection line parallel to the axes of the wire guide cylinders;

the size of said predetermined angle of inclination being fixed such that the beginning of sawing takes place against a prismatic edge of the piece to be sawed, and at the end of cutting, the wires of the layer of wires are prevented from penetrating from the intermediate plate into the piece to be sawed fixed on said intermediate plate.

14. (new) Process according to claim 13, wherein there are fixed at least two prismatic pieces to be sawed on the support table, the wire is given a continuous movement, and the angles of inclination are fixed such that they open in a direction opposite the direction of movement of the wire, and such that the sawing of the pieces begins with the prismatic edge located downstream relative to the direction of movement of the wires of the layer of wires.

15. (new) Process according to claim 14, wherein the two angles of inclination have different values; the angle of inclination of the piece to be sawed located upstream of the path of the wires being greater.

16. (new) Process according to claim 13, wherein at least two prismatic pieces to be sawed are fixed on the support table, the wire is given an alternating movement, and the angles

of inclination are fixed such that they open in opposite directions relative to each other.

17. (new) Process according to claim 13, wherein said angle of inclination is fixed at a value comprised between 0.5° and 7° .

18. (new) Process according to claim 13, wherein said angle of inclination is fixed at a value comprised between 1° and 3.5° .

19. (new) Wire sawing device comprising:

at least one layer of wires stretched between at least two wire guide cylinders whose axes are parallel to a working plane and held in position by grooves provided on the surface of said wire guide cylinders, which define the interval between the wires of said layer of wires, hence the thickness of sawed slices;

the wires being adapted to move while bearing against at least one prismatic piece to be sawed and having a substantially rectangular base fixed on a support table via an intermediate plate;

means for carrying out a relative advancing movement between the piece to be sawed and the layer of wires;

wherein the sawing device comprises inclination members for fixing the piece to be sawed on the support table such that a prismatic surface of said piece directed toward the layer of wires forms a predetermined angle of inclination with said working plane along a line of intersection parallel to the axes of the wire guide cylinders;

said predetermined angle of inclination being fixed such that the beginning of sawing takes place at a prismatic edge of the piece to be sawed, and at the end of cutting, the wires of the layer of wires do not penetrate from the intermediate plate into the piece to be sawed fixed on said intermediate plate.

20. (new) Device according to claim 19, wherein the support table is arranged to receive at least two pieces to be sawed, the wire being moved with a continuous movement, and the inclination members are arranged such that the angles of inclination open in a direction opposite to the direction of movement of the wire, and such that the sawing begins with the prismatic edge located downstream relative to the direction of movement of the wires of the layer of wires.

21. (new) Device according to claim 20, wherein the inclination members are arranged such that the angle of inclination of the piece to be sawed located upstream of the path of the wires is greater.

22. (new) Device according to claim 19, wherein the support table is arranged to receive at least two pieces to be sawed, the wire being moved with an alternating movement, and the inclination members are arranged such that the angles of inclination open in opposite directions relative to each other.

23. (new) Device according to claim 19, wherein the inclination members are arranged to obtain angles of inclination comprised between 0.5° and 7° .

24. (new) Device according to claim 19, wherein the inclination members are arranged to obtain angles of inclination comprised between 1° and 3.5° .

25. (new) Device according to claim 19, wherein the inclination members are constituted by an angular wedge interposed between the support table and the piece to be sawed or the intermediate plate.

26. (new) Device according to claim 19, wherein the inclination members are constituted by a pivotal member mounted on the support table, and at least one stop member operatively associated with the pivotal member for adjusting and fixing the angular position of the pivotal member.